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On Track: Three Masters of American Turf Writing

Edward L. Bowen

Three brilliant individuals who wrote on matters of the American turf were lost to their medium within 14 years, from 1938 to 1952. Two of them, Walter Vosburgh and John Hervey, were graduates of the previous century's wondrous sporting periodical the *Spirit of the Times*, and distinguished themselves thereafter as historians. The third was a younger man, Joe Palmer, a former English professor whose delightful orchestration of the English language was perhaps as close a thing to P. G. Wodehouse as sports writing has ever achieved.

We have been tutored by the writings of these and other writers that comparative ranking of race horses of different eras is an exercise doomed to futility. We will, accordingly, not attempt to rank writers against one another, either, whether as to entertaining style, weightiness of observation, or lasting worth as chroniclers. We hold with some confidence, however, that the three named above are worthy of mention among the most distinguished in that ellipse of writers whose subject has been the Thoroughbred.

Having assigned a certain status to Vosburgh, Hervey and Palmer, numerous other names easily cascade from memory. Red Smith, Grantland Rice, Joe Estes, David Alexander, William H. Rudy, Charlie Hatton, Bill Robertson, Neil Newman, Evan Shipman and George



When Samuel Riddle, *Man o' War's* owner, asked Walter Vosburgh how much weight the champion colt might carry if he ran as a four-year-old, Vosburgh said the weight would be unprecedented. *Man o' War* (shown here in a portrait by George Ford Morris, Clarence Kummer up) went to stud.

F. T. Ryall are among a relatively modern coterie whose knowledge and devotion to the subject were accompanied by the talent for concise, though often emotive, language.

Moreover, the lure of the turf has always attracted purveyors of different sorts of literature. As Eddie Arcaro observed in his foreword to David F. Woods' immensely pleasing compilation, *The Fireside Book of Horse Racing*, "If someone . . . had told me that the author of

Sherlock Holmes had written a racing story I would have thought he was confused and probably was referring to Spencer Drayton, head of the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau . . . however, in this anthology, I have found some of the best writing of the best writers has been about the best in sports—horse racing."

The erudite horseman Alfred G. Vanderbilt wrote in 1976 that "No other sport may, in good conscience, lay claim to a comparable literature (to racing's)." He pointed out that among authors who "found that they had at least one racing story in them" were Ernest Hemingway, D. H. Lawrence, J. P. Marquand, John Masefield and Sherwood Anderson, as well as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Consequently, any review of North American racing literature and reporting—unless it is free to grow into book length—must be highly selective or become little more than a list of names. For practicality we here omit the living, so that another brace of talented ladies and gentlemen are not even on the radar screen.

Lest disclaimers overrun the entire exercise, let us return to Messrs. Vosburgh, Hervey and Palmer, and the role we have assigned them to represent the best of American turf writers.



COURTESY THE BLOOD-HORSE

Walter Vosburgh, ready for racing.

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NSL Director Peter Winants on early major-track steeplechasing in America.

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Construction of the NSL's new facility moves forward—and up.

Vosburgh built upon early notoriety as a writer to achieve high distinction in the actual conduct of the turf. The American Turf Congress was among the initial efforts to organize racing on a broad basis; Vosburgh was secretary. That short-lived effort was followed by the establishment of the Board of Control; Vosburgh, again, was secretary.

A short time later, in 1894, the Board of Control metamorphosed into The Jockey Club, which through various eras and functions has continued to serve the industry and its highest ideals. Vosburgh initially served The Jockey Club as racing secretary, forfeit clerk and handicapper. After a decade, he relinquished two of the duties, but his continuing role as handicapper gave him an intimate association with some historic moments in Eastern racing. He bestowed such honors as 139 pounds on Whisk Broom II for his 1913 Suburban Handicap victory.

Of all the important comments Vosburgh either wrote or spoke, none had more telling effect than his response to owner Samuel Riddle's query as to how much weight Man o' War would likely carry if Riddle kept the great champion in training at four. Vosburgh answered frankly that the assignments would be unprecedented. Man o' War went to stud.

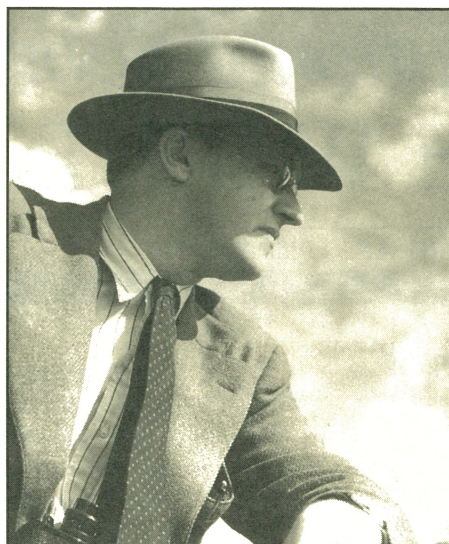
In 1933 Vosburgh wrote not an article but a race, and therein made a lasting contribution. His idea of an "Experimental Free Handicap" to rank the top members of the two-year-old crop caught on as an official annual project under the aegis of The Jockey Club. Though the handicap has endured for more than 60 years, the word "experimental" remains in its title.

Vosburgh's memory and name are also affixed annually to a seven-furlong race with sprint championship implications at Belmont Park.

A Notable Look Back

From a literary point of view, one of the most important elements of Vosburgh's legacy is also associated with the The Jockey Club. He was the author of one of the huge tomes The Jockey Club has sponsored over the years under the title *Racing in America*. Vosburgh's volume covered racing from soon after the Civil War through the early dawn of the 1920s (1866-1921). Thus, he compiled a professionally researched record of racing of those eras, along with personal observations covering a number of decades.

Vosburgh wrote of the colt Luke Blackburn that his "eye was his remarkable feature; it was so prominent, showing nervous force, and he had a fashion, like Sensation, of rolling it. In action, he was like a wild horse, running with his head



COURTESY OF THE BLOOD-HORSE

Former English professor Joe Palmer went from teaching the classics to writing about classic Thoroughbreds.

high in the air, his nostrils flaring, and his eyes ablaze, with (Jimmy) McLaughlin sitting back in the saddle trying to restrain him—indeed he leaned so far back that he often spurred the colt in the brisket."

Man o' War moved Vosburgh, indirectly, to quote Shakespeare: "The career of a race horse is often like 'the uncertain glory of an April day' but Man o' War's three-year-old-season was one of undimmed glory. . . He had the size and power of a sprinter, with the conformation of a stayer. No horse could have made more improvement than he did between his two- and three-year-old form, when he emerged a giant."

Vosburgh died at 84 in 1938.

Vosburgh had written in the *Spirit of the Times* under the pen name Vigilant. Salvator was the chosen pen name of John Hervey, who authored three of the first four volumes of *Racing in America* (1665-1865, Parts I and II, and 1922-1936).

Hervey was a lifelong bachelor who devoted much of his personal energies and intellect as well as his professional fervor to the turf, its reportage and well-being. He was born in Jefferson, Ohio, in 1870. His father recalled seeing the great race horses of the 1840s and 1850s, and his mother told of seeing Fashion and Grey Eagle in her youth. Hervey was compiling material for the *Spirit of the Times* while in his teens. At 20 he was assisting Sanders D. Bruce, who not only compiled the early *American Stud Book* but also published a periodical under a name charmingly evocative of America at the time, *Turf, Field & Farm*.

Hervey moved on to Chicago, where he lived the majority of his life, but he wandered the world as well, visiting virtually all racing

states as well as several European countries. His knowledge of international racing led to commissions to contribute to the *Bloodstock Breeders' Review* and *Racing at Home and Abroad*, as well as the *Daily Racing Form*, *The Blood-Horse* and others.

Over the years he also worked on projects with Fairfax Harrison and Harry Worcester Smith, and, like many true agriculturists of the time, had interest in other breeds. His book *The American Trotter* was published in 1947, the year of his death. He also wrote on such matters as literature and art for *Atlantic Monthly*, *Century*, *Nation* and other magazines.

In addition to the mammoth volumes of *Racing in America*, Hervey was the first author of Sagamore Press's ambitious annual, *American Race Horses*, which began with *American Race Horses of 1936*. Here Alfred G. Vanderbilt put his interest in literature and horses to work on behalf of the industry. With his backing, the series set out detailed records, as well as lengthy accounts of the histories of the leading horses of each season. The effort had a predecessor from the early 1930s, a series entitled *Famous Race Horses of the American Turf*, which had been published by Eugene V. Connett and the Derrydale Press.

Hervey also used the *Race Horses* series as a vehicle for comment on the pluses and minuses of the turf. His viewpoint was consistent in that all matters that threatened to work against the horse and the sport were to be resisted.

He was also something of a musician with the language. He had so great an opinion of Equipoise that on occasion he felt compelled to write in lengthy defense of the horse which he lovingly described as "a living harmony in

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horseflesh, an embodiment of rhythm and modulation, of point and counterpoint, that sung to the eye and made music to the heart."

In *Racehorses of 1943*, his final edition in the series, Hervey encountered another great champion in the Triple Crown winner Count Fleet, whose career ended with a 25-length victory in the Belmont Stakes.

Because of the tendency of writers to overpraise contemporary horses, he began, "the repertoire of laudation, it might be said, has been worn threadbare." In Count Fleet he found just cause to dip generously into that eloquently described storehouse of available adjectives:

"His achievements were so dazzling, his record so splendid, that not only does he stand out—he throws into the shade all other Thoroughbreds of 1943, without regard to age, sex, or other qualifications. . . . If we take the record of Count Fleet . . . a mere glance at it is sufficient to disclose a capacity absolutely first class."

Having concluded his retelling of Count Fleet's Triple Crown, Hervey mixed his music with the mundane reporting of facts: "And so once more [owner] Mrs. Hertz descended to meet him as trainer Cameron led him into the enclosure for the presentation of the massive gold cup signaling his victory, while serried [crowded] batteries of camera men clustered about them and the stands rocked with an ovation as sincere as it was reverberant. The net value of the stake to him was \$35,340."

In 1944, Joe Palmer authored *Race Horses* for the first time. Four years later he, too, addressed a horse for whom the "repertoire of laudation" came into play. Citation swept through his Triple Crown and assorted other prizes until he owned a 1948 record of 19 wins in 20 races. The best that could be brought to him had wound up not so much "serried" as scattered in defeat.

It was incumbent on turf writers of Citation's time to comment on him in the context of Man o' War. Palmer drew inspiration from this need:

"Man o' War did everything with a flair; Citation does it with quiet perfection. Man o' War ran with a lavish expenditure of strength, almost of brute strength, his head high and his copper mane flowing. Citation moves like a frictionless machine. Man o' War would bolt his food if he wasn't watched, just as he tore into everything. Citation eats as much as his trainer likes, but he isn't ravenous. His disposition is quiet, though occasionally he would kick a bit in the winner's enclosure after a long race, and nothing which goes on in his stable upsets him.

"This is perhaps to say that Citation lacks color, or at least that what color he has comes from his unmatched performances rather than from anything he shows in repose. At least, he had no such appeal to racing crowds as was exerted by Man o' War. Comparing the two is a little bit like comparing Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney."

Palmer was wont to suggest that the fascination the turf held for him was more a result of his interest in the people and ambience than the physical creature, the horse, itself. Nevertheless, that he was sufficiently knowledgeable about the Thoroughbred to use two horses' eating habits as a method of comparison belies any notion that he was a lot of professor and not much horseman.

From History to Whimsy

Likewise, he authored *Names in Pedigrees*, a Herveyesque study of the racing and breeding histories of historically important horses, as well as *This Was Racing*, a whimsical feast of tales delighting in all strata of the racing scene.

Palmer was born and raised in Kentucky. He was educated at and later taught at the University of Kentucky. Eventually he grew as far from his roots as the University of Michigan, where he also taught while completing his graduate work. Returning to Lexington, he became business manager and associate editor of *The Blood-Horse* when it was purchased from Thomas B. Cromwell by the American Thoroughbred Breeders Association in 1935.

Though in 1946 Palmer was lured away in a residential sense to join the staff at the New York *Herald-Tribune*, his prose continued to enliven the pages of *The Blood-Horse* until his death at 48 in 1952. After his death, the *Race Horses* series was authored by various writers and contributors and presented in various formats through 1963, by which time it had long since been taken over by *The Blood-Horse*.

Even a splendid 1963 effort authored by Raleigh Burroughs that harked back to the original *Race Horses* format failed to generate sufficient sales for *The Blood-Horse* to justify carrying on the series in a time of expanding racing and, apparently, constricting reading habits. It lapsed thereafter.

More than a dozen years later, this writer prevailed upon *The Blood-Horse* to attempt a sort of revival. Thus, for four years *Thoroughbreds* (of 1976-1979) was ground out as a personal project. In the absence of a Hervey, Vosburgh or Palmer, a discerning public was able to express with unmistakable clarity its willingness to endure without further editions.

Edward L. Bowen is director of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation in Lexington, Ky. Bowen, former editor of *The Blood-Horse* magazine, has received the Eclipse Award for his writing. He has written seven books, including *The Jockey Club's Illustrated History of Thoroughbred Racing in America* (1994).



COURTESY KEENELAND ASSOCIATION LIBRARY

This 1941 photo shows turf writer John Hervey in the company of other distinguished lights of the Thoroughbred world (from left): equine artist Martin Stainforth, Hervey, author/sportsman Harry Worcester Smith and turf historian John L. O'Connor.

When Chasing Met the Big Time

Peter Winants

Racing over hurdles became popular after the Civil War on the dirt surfaces of race courses in many parts of America: Cincinnati; Lexington; Louisville; Chicago; Boston; St. Louis; New Orleans; Memphis; San Jose, Calif.; Springfield, Mass.; Troy, N.Y.; and Cranston, R.I.

Hurdle horses were called "timber topers" in the infancy of racing over fences. They undoubtedly jumped different types of hurdles in traveling about the country, some makeshift and dangerous, others made with safety in mind.

Then came Jerome Park, which was in a class of its own.

The inaugural meet at Jerome Park, near Fordham University in what is now the Bronx borough of New York City, was held in 1866. This course was the brainchild, and named for, Leonard W. Jerome, a leader on the turf and in business. Jerome's daughter, Jenny Lind, was Sir Winston Churchill's mother.

Jerome appointed August Belmont, for whom the Belmont Stakes is named, as Jerome Park's president. The facilities at the new race course were heralded as the finest in the history of American racing.

Edward L. Bowen stated in *The Jockey Club's Illustrated History of Thoroughbred Racing in America*: "Jerome Park bore only an incidental resemblance to the ramshackle tracks strewn across the country in every state then in existence."

An article in the *New York Sportsman*, a weekly magazine, stated: "Jerome Park had the power to put before the people of this great city of the Americas an opportunity to enjoy recreation of most delightful and wholesome character."

The inaugural meet had a hurdle handicap, two miles over eight flights of hurdles. A race over hurdles was carded a year later at the meet in which the filly, Ruthless, won the first running of the Belmont Stakes.

Oct. 26, 1869, was a landmark in the history of American steeplechasing—the first running of a true steeplechase at a major race track.

Walter A. Vosburgh, writing under the pen name "Vigilant" in the *Spirit of the Times*, described the scene that day at Jerome Park:



This cover from the *Spirit of the Times* shows chasing sketches from Jerome Park (N.Y.). Top: "The Gentlemen Race in the Rain." Bottom: "At the Water-Jump."

"The novelty of the thing struck people, many of whom had not the vaguest idea of what a steeplechase was, and, as may be imagined, remarks en route to the course were amusing in the extreme. The word steeple, to their apprehension, had some remote reference to the spire of a church. There was a church at Fordham, but what the horses had to do with its steeple was a puzzle."

The Live View from Deadhead Hill

Vosburgh stated that 15,000 to 20,000 were present, with many gathering at Deadhead Hill, which was to become the favorite spot for steeplechase fans because of its superior view of the entire steeplechase course.

Seven horses went postward in the steeplechase handicap. They raced closely bunched, with the three leaders in the air together at the water jump in front of the stands. Oysterman, a 5-year-old who was the lightweight at 136 pounds, made a strong move in the late stages and won by a neck.

"The chase was a success," Vosburgh wrote. "The people pronounced it immense. It was the all-absorbing topic for weeks."

The management at Saratoga reacted to the success of steeplechases at Jerome Park by readying a bona fide steeplechase course

for the 1870 season. The course wound about the infield, then crossed the dirt track on the backstretch to pass through what now is a stable area.

Amateur steeplechase jockey Harry S. Page, who rode in races at Saratoga in 1893, described the course in his book *Between the Flags*: "It started diagonally through the infield. The jumps were little stone walls or banks, with generally a pet place to jump each. The water was guarded by the only hedge."

Meanwhile, the owners of hotels on the New Jersey seashore near Long Branch envied the success of Saratoga's vacation trade and sought a Saratoga-like attraction. Monmouth Park, near Long Branch, N.J., was constructed in 1870. A race over hurdles was the first race on the card on opening day.

Harry Page visited Monmouth Park in 1877. He described it as "the finest race course as this country has ever seen laid out," but he wasn't enthusiastic about the fences on the steeplechase course. "Very small they were," he wrote.

The idea of building Pimlico Race Course, which was to become an important steeplechase center, was conceived at a dinner party at Saratoga in 1868 that was attended by Gov. Oden Bowie of Maryland, an owner of race horses, and other prominent Marylanders. The dinner conversation centered on the construction of a new race course in Baltimore, which resulted in the opening of Pimlico Park in 1870. The colt Preakness won the feature race, the Dinner Party Stakes. The Preakness Stakes, in honor of the winner, was first contested in 1873.

Also in 1873, a steeplechase course was built at Pimlico, which was affectionately called "Old Hilltop" because of an elevated area in the infield.

An article in the *Spirit* described the flavor of Pimlico: "Maryland has always been celebrated for the beauty and loveliness of its ladies, as well as the warm hospitality and dignified courtesy of its representatives of the sterner sex ... The course is located within a

convenient distance of the city, and the drive to the course through the charming Druid Park is unsurpassable in loveliness and magnificence."

Unforeseen developments eliminated Jerome Park and Monmouth. The city of New York took Jerome Park's property for a reservoir. New Jersey's legislature banned wagering in 1893, which shut down Monmouth Park.

In 1889, Leonard Jerome teamed with prominent race horse owner and breeder John A. Morris to build Morris Park in Westchester County, several miles from Jerome Park. Their friend August Belmont was named president.

Vosburgh described Morris Park in *Racing in America 1866-1921*: "A magnificent racing park rose like a temple, as Milton would say. The grand stand was built upon a hill, a single tier with boxes along the front row. The lawn sloped from the stand to the track to a degree that spectators could stand on any part of it and have a clear view of the races. The club-house, a palatial structure, stood on a hill adjoining the grand stand. Its elevation enabled one to view the country for miles away."

Stakes races previously run at Jerome Park were transferred to Morris Park, including the Withers and Champagne stakes, which are now held at Belmont Park.

One of Morris Park's two steeplechase courses exited the main track for the countryside. Hurdle races were held on the dirt oval. Jockey Page wrote: "Here [at Morris Park]

was the very best steeplechase course laid out by any of our Metropolitan Racing Associations, for it was not confined to an infield and the hill in it not only made it easier on the horses, but the jockeys were obliged to use their heads for something besides falling on."

Trillion, owned and ridden by William C. Hayes, an amateur rider from Virginia, won the first running of the Grand National

"The chase was a success," Walter Vosburgh wrote. "The people pronounced it immense. It was the all-absorbing topic for weeks."

Steeplechase at Morris Park on May 20, 1899. The \$8,000 purse was the largest to that date for a jump race in the United States.

Harry Page described Trillion as a stoutly-built chestnut. He added that Trillion was unmanageable as a young horse. "An operation was performed that made him amenable to discipline," Page wrote.

Trillion prepped for the three-mile Grand National by winning a hurdle race and a steeplechase on the same afternoon at Richmond in early spring, then a steeplechase at the Meadow Brook (Long Island) meet in late April.

Page stated that the starter had problems dispatching the nine-horse field in the Grand National because Hayes and another jockey tried to break before the fall of the starter's flag.

This resulted in the following conversation:

The starter: "Fine you \$50, Mr. Hayes."

Hayes: "What's that you say?"

The starter: "Fine you \$100."

Hayes: "You said \$50."

Page described the running of the race: "Over the water the last time, I can plainly see him now. He [Trillion] was laying fifth and, when clear, Bill [Hayes] gave him 'one' and he picked up the field. By the top of the hill, the flying pacesetters were brought back to Trillion. After coming down the hill over the last two fences, Trillion won comfortably enough."

Page and other friends later drank a toast to the winner. "But I have always told Bill that it was the glass of port with a pony of brandy in it, which I gave him before he got up, that did the trick," Page wrote.

NSL Director Peter Winants is the author of Jay Trump: A Steeplechasing Saga and Flatterer: The Story of a Steeplechase Champion.

GIFT HORSES

NSL members have been keeping the library close at heart this spring. Susan Kane-Parker donated a copy of Frank Roe's *The Indian and the Horse* from our "books wanted" list. Judy Richter also sent a book on the list: Barbara van Tuyl's *How to Ride and Jump Your Best*. And, author and NSL member Barbara Engel donated her five most recent publications on therapeutic riding.

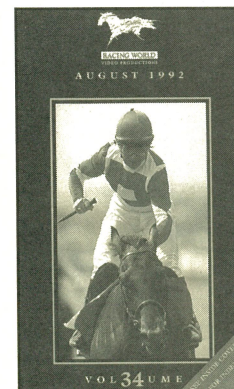
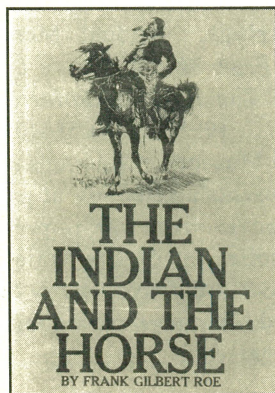
Barbara Cole, Tricia Booker and Ken and Gail Vermett all provided the NSL with donations of many books. Douglas Rawnsley donated an

impressive run of 46 installments of "Racing World, a video series about British racing," with programs covering 1989-1995. These videos will be a useful addition to the audiovisual center in the new library.

Other donors included J.A. Allen, Breakthrough, Equine Research, the library of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Capt. John H. Fritz, *The Chronicle of the Horse*, J. Lee Sedwitz, Stackpole Books, Cowles Enthusiast Media, The Lyons Press, Storey Communications and Laura Rose.

In addition, The Old Dominion Region Pony Clubs made a donation in memory of Edward Smith, a lifelong horseman and the father of Zan Thomas, one of the club's directors.

Thank you, donors!



EXHIBITION SPOTLIGHT

The following is a list of exhibitions that NSL members may find of interest. A contact number is included; we encourage you to check schedules and hours before attending.

ARIZONA

Phoenix. The Heard Museum. "Horse." Through March 1999. (602) 252-8840. This exhibit examines the influences the horse has had on indigenous cultures in North America, and also explores the deep meanings that horses hold for Native Americans. Indian horse gear, baskets, vests, cradle board covers and children's horses are included. The exhibit also looks at contemporary images of horses in Native American art and the continuing role of horses in Native American life.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington. National Gallery of Art. "Degas at the Races." Through July 12, 1998. (202) 737-4215. The first museum exhibition ever devoted to Edgar

Degas's lifelong fascination with the horse and the track includes more than 120 works, including paintings, drawings and sculpture. A highlight will be Degas's great masterpiece, "Scene from the Steeplechase: The Fallen Jockey," from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon; the painting has not been publicly exhibited in more than 30 years.

Washington. Smithsonian Institution Libraries Exhibition Gallery, National Museum of American History. "Audubon & the Smithsonian." Through May 1998. (202) 357-2627. This exhibition presents highlights of the publishing history of John James Audubon and his seminal works, *The Birds of America* and *Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*, along with watercolors, lithographs and other artworks and accompanying texts produced by the artist in support of his "Great Work."

KENTUCKY

Lexington. American Saddle Horse Museum. "Advancing Toward the Past: The Expanding Museum Collection." Through December 1998. (606) 259-2746. This exhibition represents a sampling of the approximately 500 artifacts accepted by the museum from 1996 through early 1998, including artwork, trophies, memorabilia and more.

Lexington. International Museum of the Horse. "The Horse in Fine Art." April 17-May 25, 1998. (606) 259-4231. The American Academy of Equine Art's premier national tour features 35 paintings and 21 sculptures portraying activities such as racing, hunting, showjumping, polo, dressage and more.

Also, "Presidents and Their Horses." June 5-Sept. 7, 1998. Text, art, photos and artifacts will tell the stories of our nation's leaders and their equestrian involvement.

The exhibit begins in Colonial America and continues to the 20th century through the wild west and military exploits of Teddy Roosevelt to Ronald Reagan's film career and love of horses.

The Visitor Information Center Photo Gallery will present "The Photos of Jim Durham & Lee Hoge" from May 22-Aug. 16. Durham's black-and-white photos give an intimate view of Kentucky and its horses. Hoge presents a photographic tribute to Secretariat on the 25th anniversary of his Triple Crown.

MARYLAND

Bowie. Bel Air Mansion and Stable, City of Bowie Museums. "Eleanor Iselin Wade: Artist and Horsewoman." April 18-June 28, 1998. (301) 809-3089. This exhibition, which was organized by the National Museum of Racing, features equestrian bronzes created over a lifetime by artist and rancher Eleanor Iselin Wade.

Among the artworks are bronzes from "Scipio" (1927) to "Lonesome Glory" (1997). The show will next travel to the Frederic Remington Museum in Ogdensburg, N.Y., in July.

NEW YORK

Saratoga Springs. National Museum of Racing. "From Man o' War to Lonesome Glory: The Jeffords Collection." July 25-Sept. 7, 1998. (518) 584-0400. The National Museum of Racing's summer show presents a selection of paintings and bronzes from the important sporting art collection of Mrs. Water M. Jeffords Jr. Edward Troye, Henry Stull and Sir Alfred Munnings are among the artists represented.



COURTESY NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

"Study of Two Jockeys" is one of the artworks by Edgar Degas in the exhibition "Degas at the Races," which will be on display at the National Gallery of Art in Washington through July 12.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro. Weatherspoon Art Gallery at The University of North Carolina Greensboro. "*Wild/Life or the Impossibility of Mistaking Nature for Culture.*" April 26-July 26, 1998. (910) 334-5770. *Wild/Life* explores how artists living and working today relate to animals in the wild. Issues of technology, animal rights, and animals as remnants of popular culture are also addressed. Artists include Mark Dion, Alexis Rockman, Fred Tomaselli, Ann Craven and others.

TEXAS

Amarillo. American Quarter Horse

Heritage Center & Museum. "*The Little Wrangler.*" Through Sept. 7, 1998. (806) 376-4888. This exhibit is designed to give visitors a taste of life on a 19th-century cattle drive. Modern "little wranglers" can visit an animated talking horse, try on kid-size vests, chaps and boots, and watch classic Western movie clips from the seat of a saddle.

VIRGINIA

Richmond. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. "*Hallowed Ground: Preserving America's Heritage.*" Through May 31, 1998. (804) 367-0852.

Virginia's northern Piedmont, an area that covers about 3,000 square miles, is home to no fewer than 16 Civil War battlefields, 13 historic towns and 17 historic districts. Today the region's valleys and villages face a different kind of threat—the "blacktop and concrete" revolution. This exhibition, featuring photographs from the 1996 book of the same name, shows some of the beauty of this endangered area, which includes Middleburg, home of the NSL. The exhibition will travel to the Savannah College of Art and Design in October 1998.

SEEN IN THE STACKS...

Tom and Sandra Hendrickson, who raise Bashkir Curly Horses in Indianapolis, Ind., looked at the NSL's books on horse breeds.

Tom Ryder of York, England, visited the library and enjoyed looking at the books on driving with his friend **Richard Sisco** of Woodstown, N.J.

Florence Hillman of Middleburg researched 18th century horse racing in Great Britain for a novel she is working on.

Jim McCune of Bluemont, Va., researched Thoroughbred horse racing.

Nine-year-old **Christina Gregory** of Centreville, Va., researched Penny Chenery, owner of Secretariat, for a project in her fourth grade class at Cub Run Elementary School. **Debbie Gregory**, Christina's mom, joined her.

Artist **Loretta Dovell Bailey** of Stephens City, Va., researched racing legend Secretariat for an upcoming painting.

Rob Shields of Charles Town, W. Va., and **James and Effie Hess** of Sykesville, Md., enjoyed a look at the NSL's rare book collection. Shields, a rare books librarian at the Library of Congress in Washington, raises Peruvian Pasos, and the Hesses raise Arabians.

Betsy Hill of Reston, Va., took a tour of the collection. Hill is a library science student at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Reid Folsom of Fairfax, Va., researched height measurement of horses.

Allen Toews of Warrenton, Va., researched the history of the Ashland Bassets.

Event rider **Jennifer Simmons** of Upperville, Va., researched the bloodlines of her Thoroughbred.

George Hyatt of Broadway, U.K., looked into hunting and steeplechasing.

Norman Fine of Millwood, Va., researched foxhunting topics for *Covertside*, the newsletter he edits for the Masters of Foxhounds Association.

Sharon Anthony and **Mike Weesner** of Franklin, Tenn., enjoyed a tour of the collection and a look at the rare books.

Joy S. Schaya of Warrenton, Va., researched horse brasses for an English project at Lord Fairfax Community College.

Jennifer Spradlin of Comus, Md., researched careers with horses.

Artist **Christine Coviello** of Fairfax, Va., researched foxhunting images for a mural.

Andrea Grosse, a Paso Fino enthusiast from Reston, Va., took a tour of the collection.

Greer Allen of New Haven, Conn., looked into steeplechase history. Allen, a chase rider in his youth, now teaches book design at Yale.

Sarah Turner of Haymarket, Va., and **Mary Dulaney Carter** of Broad Run, Va., visited the NSL to obtain materials on early horse racing in Haymarket, Va., for a book on the town.

Rick Stoutamyer, a bookseller from Marshall, Va., enjoyed a look at the NSL's rare books.

Sara Stone, archivist of Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Va., visited the NSL.

David Johnson, a veterinarian and event rider from Warrenton, Va., researched the veterinary section.

Prudence Anderson of Boyce, Va., took a tour of the collection.

Robert Brugger of Baltimore, Md., stopped in to research past issues of the *NSL Newsletter*.

BOOK REVIEWS

Stables and Other Equestrian Buildings

By KEITH WARTH

J.A. Allen and Co., 1 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EL England. 1997. 102 pp. Bibliography. Glossary. Illus. Index. \$60.00.

For architect and author Keith Warth, the health of the horse is the number one priority in designing equestrian facilities—as it should be. After that, Warth moves to convenience and practicality.

Most horseowners who've decided to take the plunge from boarding into full-blown at-home horsekeeping realize the importance of horse health, so Warth moves quickly to sharing ideas on facility design with good explanations behind them.

He details early stages, such as site selection and planning regulations, as well as finishing touches. While selection of the best site is applicable anywhere, the planning regulations discussed in this book are based on United Kingdom laws. If building a house in the United States is any indication, a potential barn builder should be ready for a bureaucratic nightmare with town and county planning boards, building codes and other laws. I would advise any horseowner to head first to the town municipal building to get all applicable paperwork and laws for farms and barns.

Throughout the book, it's evident that Warth thinks like a horseman who knows

that most horsemen have little time on their hands. He advises builders to remember to place the feed room near a vehicle entrance to make unloading grain and hay simpler, and to design the foaling stall with the

night watchman's comfort in mind.

He covers stall design, proper and improper floorings, correct building materials and so on. This book fills you with ideas for farm design. I'd read it with a notebook handy for recording applicable ideas,

such as a garage for your trailer, that you may forget once the construction "mayhem" begins.

Warth discusses outdoor and indoor arenas, proper drainage and more, right down to the manure pits. The advice is detailed enough that you can discuss your needs intelligently with a builder but not so technical that you have to become an architect-engineer to understand it (though there is a do-it-yourself section for the more adventurous).

But the book's most attractive feature is its photography: breathtaking photographs of equestrian estates most of us will never own but would want our dream farm to resemble. The paper is rich and the art so lovely that the book would also make an attractive coffee-table or gift book.

Without question, a great deal of work and thought went into this fairly thin book. Although the author is an architect who claims not to be an expert on horses, you wouldn't know it.

C.R.F.

Conformation and Performance

By NANCY S. LOVING, D.V.M.

Breakthrough Publications, Inc., 310 North Highland Ave., Ossining, NY 10562. 1997. 226 pp. Illus. Index. Glossary. \$39.95.

Veterinarian Nancy Loving and photographer Bob Langrish undertook a tremendous task in assembling a large collection of color photographs for this book, which aims to explain many aspects of equine conformation.

The photos illustrate nearly every conformation fault, in addition to few positive aspects. Compiling the photos—of feet, legs, necks, hindquarters and more of several horses—must have taken a great deal of time. Many different breeds and types of conformation are represented, leaving no stone unturned.

For each fault (or perfection) or conformation type illustrated, Loving presents a brief but concise description, along with information on how common it is, which breeds and activities are affected, performance consequences, management and training strategies, and the best job for the horse. Different body types and horse sport

disciplines are considered including dressage, jumping, endurance riding, pleasure riding, cutting and reining. The reader will learn which body types and builds better suit the different sports.

What makes this book outstanding and unique is that horses with faults are not regarded as losers. Like a good social worker or job counselor, Loving makes career suggestions for imperfect equines which may enable them to lead full and useful lives.

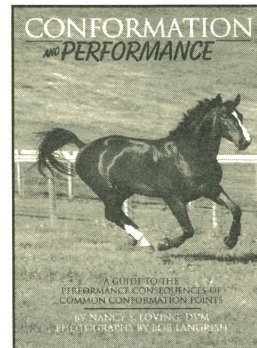
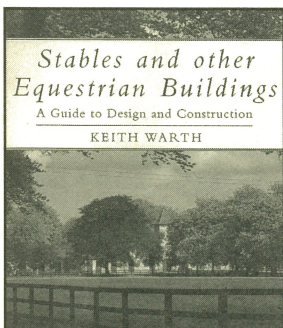
In the introduction she wrote: "The trick in achieving athletic longevity is to recognize a horse's lack of perfection at the onset, and to manage that horse within its genetic capacity to perform. Many problems can be headed off at the beginning before they develop to full blown lameness or behavioral issues."

One example is the horse with feet too small. Loving wrote, "If given good shoeing support, a small-footed horse can tackle any sport. . . Sport events in soft footing (arena settings) such as equitation, cutting, reining, barrel racing or dressage generally promote athletic longevity as compared with riding activities over hard ground or downhill inclines."

One dissatisfaction is finding what traits are desirable. In general, the book is arranged in logical order of head and neck, body, front legs, feet and so on. However, within each section, the reader has difficulty finding which conformation aspect is a *desirable* conformation aspect. For instance, in the 11 neck examples, the arched neck, which is a desirable neck that Loving says can do "anything" under "best job," comes along ninth, stuck between swan neck and knife-necked.

Overall, though, the book will be valuable to the reader who wishes to fairly evaluate a horse's conformation and potential. You will learn what you and your horse can live with, and when it may be better for the horse to find a more suitable career. When shopping for a suitable horse, you will have a tool to help make a reasonable decision for the right equine partner for the sport you wish to participate in.

L.C.





FROM RACING ART AND MEMORABILIA

The 1843 Goodwood Cup trophy depicts a scene from Byron's poem "Mazeppa," in which the young Mazeppa is bound to the back of an unbroken horse by his lover's angry husband. The horse gallops until it drops dead from exhaustion; Mazeppa is found and nursed back to health by a kind maiden.

Racing Art and Memorabilia: A Celebration of the Turf

BY GRAHAM BUDD

Philip Wilson Publishers in Association with the National Horseracing Museum, Newmarket. Distributed in the U.S. by Antique Collectors' Club, Market Street Industrial Park, Wappingers' Falls, NY 12590. 1997. 192 pp. Bibliography. Illus. Index. \$65.00.

As an art book lover, any new book on sporting art quickens my pulse. However, as lavish as *Racing Art and Memorabilia* is, I was surprised when the art in it barely incited a murmur from my heart, while its memorabilia put me into target heart range.

The art sections may be greatly enjoyed by those who are new to sporting art, but those with a basic knowledge of the subject will find many familiar images by a familiar assortment of artists and a good deal of the same resume-type information about them. There are some interesting contemporary artists included and some images never before repro-

duced, but for the most part the book rarely ventures off the standard path that many have already traveled.

Budd, a turf historian who also works on catalogues for Sotheby's, shines brightest when he gets past the standard and weaves together his knowledge of art history and turf history. The reader will learn from this book, but serious art buffs should be warned that it offers more about the history surrounding the artworks than it does insight into the artworks themselves.

The book itself features beautifully reproduced images and tasteful design. However, the text often discusses an image that is one or more pages away, and the reader must constantly flip back and forth throughout the book. It's frustrating.

For me, the sections of the book that deal with new ground—such as racing cups, trophies and other memorabilia—are the book's high points. For example, one illustration shows a collection of riding whips in the collec-

tion of the National Horseracing Museum in Newmarket, England. Budd explains: "Mercifully, the modern riding whip bears no relation to those used in the 18th century. The weight (475 g) and balance of the 1746 whip is truly awesome. They were vicious instruments, made from whalebone with a leather casing and designed for the purpose of extracting the last ounce of energy from the horse regardless of the consequences. In Georgian times, it was expected of a jockey to be hard on his horse, a fact that may explain why so many horses ran only a handful of times."

Reviewers aren't supposed to wish for books that could have been written instead of reviewing the book at hand, but when Budd writes a book on racing memorabilia, I'll bet on it to be a winner.

L.R.

Mid-Atlantic Budget Angler

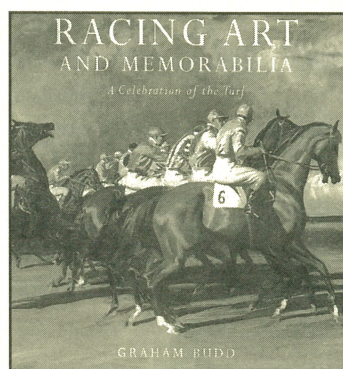
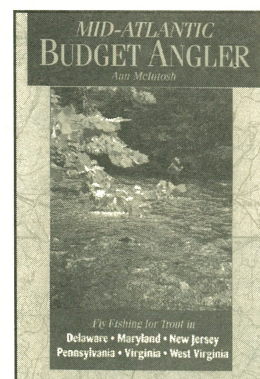
BY ANN MCINTOSH

Stackpole Books, 5067 Ritter Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. 1998. Paper. 272 pp. Illus. Index. \$16.95.

Fishing addict Ann McIntosh of northern Maryland has through the years made trips to fishable waters in six states within a 250-mile radius of her home. She informed fellow anglers of her experiences in the newsletter of the local chapter of Trout Unlimited. This led to a much wider audience with her column, "The Budget Angler," in *Trout Unlimited*, the national publication of Trout Unlimited. In no time, it was the best-read column in the magazine. The time had come for McIntosh's first book.

The section for each state includes travel instructions, detailed maps of trout streams, regulations, listings of tackle shops and guides, and where to sleep and eat. There's great advice here for anyone, fisherman or not, who enjoys getaways in lovely settings, and how to save money.

McIntosh's roles as a sportsman and conservationist come through clearly. "I will always prefer angling for wild fish rather than stocked trout," she wrote. "Not only do they



provide a much greater challenge, but they are also evidence of quality water in a healthy environment. One cannot fish for trout without getting interested in cold-water management, stream reclamation and preserving the habitat that supports our sport."

McIntosh states that she isn't a professional angler. "I am an experienced angler with lots to learn, and I intend to remain an amateur in the pursuit of this sport." However, she is very professional in communicating with other addicts.

P. W.

Hands-on Horse Care

BY KAREN E.N. HAYES, D.V.M.

Cowles Enthusiast Media, Harrisburg, PA. Distributed by Trafalgar Square Publishing, Howe Hill Road, North Pomfret, VT 05053. 1997. 400 pp. Glossary. Illus. Index. Spiral binding. \$29.95.

Few of the veterinary titles published earn the status that *Hands-on Horse Care* does—that of being an indispensable information resource worthy of keeping in the tack room right alongside the first aid kit.

The book, which was produced by *Horse & Rider* magazine in cooperation with the American Association of Equine Practitioners, covers the waterfront of horse health problems and provides simple flow chart "action plans" of emergency procedures to treat them. It also provides a wealth of information about "preventive" horse care, and an extensive glossary.

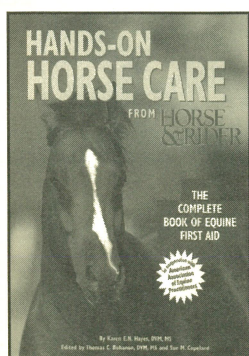
If that sounds broad and far-reaching, it's because this book is both. As an added benefit, it is written in a very user-friendly style aimed at the layman. For example, in the section of the book with the "action plans," one of the sections is for "pink, bubbly-looking growth." The book states: "What you see: What looks like pink cauliflower growing out of the center of a flesh wound. It seems to be getting bigger every day, and it's spreading the edges of the skin. It bleeds at the slightest touch and is ugly and angry-looking."

I don't know about you, but I think that, armed with this description, I would know this animal if I saw it, and would be ready to follow the flow-chart action plan, which

would lead me to calling a veterinarian for an immediate visit, applying a home treatment (usually provided on the facing page or easily found elsewhere in the book), or making an appointment for a veterinarian's later visit. If an action plan calls for an immediate visit, such as in the case of a profuse nose bleed, "While You Wait" notes tell what to do until the veterinarian comes.

The "hands-on horsekeeping" section, which focuses on preventive care, covers the inevitable things you need to know: how to bandage an injury, how to determine which leg is lame, how to pull a loose shoe. One of my favorite items was on how to stimulate thirst; if you can lead a horse to water but can't make him drink, you *can* still encourage him. The book has six methods to try, from a squirt of a table salt/applesauce recipe to a watery bran mash.

The book is illustrated with very clear photographs and easy-to-understand graphics. It is designed to be simple to use and easy to put into action. It works.



TEN worldly TITLES IN THE NSL COLLECTION

1. Blake, Neil Ffrench. *The World of Dressage* (1969).
2. Buchanan-Jardine, John. *Hounds of the World* (1937).
3. Gordon, W.J. *The Horse World of London* (1971).
4. Mortimer, Roger. *Great Racehorses of the World* (1970).
5. Noakes, Aubrey. *The World of Henry Alken* (1952).
6. Piekalkiewicz, Janusz. *The Cavalry of World War II* (1980).
7. Rue, Leonard. *The World of the Red Fox* (1969).
8. Savitt, Sam. *Around the World with Horses* (1962).
9. Watson, Alfred E.T. *The Racing World and Its Inhabitants* (1904).
10. Williams, Dorian. *Great Riding Schools of the World* (1975).

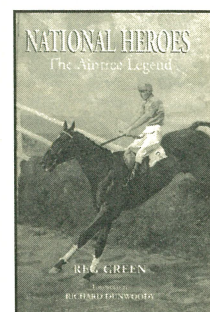
No book can take the place of a good veterinarian, but no veterinarian is going to be available at the exact moment that every emergency happens. This book can help bridge the gap between veterinarians and horse owners by providing owners with information that will allow them to make wiser decisions in emergency situations and in general horsekeeping.

L.R.

National Heroes: The Aintree Legend

BY REG GREEN

Mainstream Publishing Co., Edinburgh. Distributed in U. S. by Trafalgar Square Publishing, North Pomfret, VT 05053. 1997. 224 pp. Illus. \$27.00.



I read *National Heroes* to emotionally prepare for a visit to England to root for the American horse Buck Jakes in this year's Grand National. Buck Jakes didn't race because of an injury, which was disappointing. Likewise, *National Heroes* is disappointing.


Green superficially covers each Grand National 1839-1996. He has altogether too little space for this challenge. Furthermore, he wastes space by listing worldwide happenings as an introduction to many of the years. For 1864, he wrote: "In America, the Civil War dragged on and in March 1864 President Lincoln promoted General Ulysses S. Grant to command all the Union armies." Relevant?

On the positive side, Green, like many English turf writers, uses colorful terms to describe incidents in racing. One horse, when retreating to the rear of the field, "appeared to have lost his zest for the game." Another set the pace "in flamboyant style," and he described the fall of the favorite as "making an early exit."

Green would have been far more effective if he had focused on a dozen or so heroes of the Grand National rather than a once-over-lightly analysis of all races and winners. And, he has committed a cardinal sin for a book of this nature by failing to include an index.

P.W.

NEW ARRIVALS

The following books are now on the NSL shelves. We invite you to visit the Library to see these new arrivals. The  symbol notes recently published works.

Adams, Richard

Traveller

New York: Dell, 1988.

Ainslie, Tom

Complete Guide to Thoroughbred Racing

New York: Simon & Schuster, 1986.

 Allison, Keith

A Guide to Plants Poisonous to Horses

London: J.A. Allen, 1997.

 Allison, Keith


Holistic Management of Dogs

London: J. A. Allen, 1997.

Beery, Jesse

Jesse Beery's Practical System...

N.p.: n.p., n.d.

 Bodio, Stephen B.

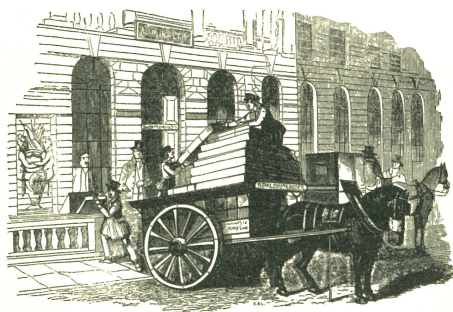
On the Edge of the Wild

New York: The Lyons Press, 1998.

 Britton, Vanessa

All About Rugs

London: J. A. Allen, 1997.



 Christie's

Sporting Art Wed. 3 Dec. 1997

New York: Christie's, 1997.

Doty, Jean Slaughter

The Monday Horses

New York: Pocket, 1979.

 Engel, Barbara

Bibliography of the FRDI

Durango, Colo.: Barbara Engel Therapy Services, 1997.

 Engel, Barbara

Rehabilitation with the Aid of a Horse

Durango, Colo.: Barbara Engel Therapy Services, 1997.

 Engel, Barbara

Therapeutic Riding I (Book I)

Durango, Colo.: Barbara Engel Therapy Services, 1998.

 Engel, Barbara

Therapeutic Riding I (Book II)

Durango, Colo.: Barbara Engel Therapy Services, 1998.

 Engel, Barbara

Therapeutic Riding II

Durango, Colo.: Barbara Engel Therapy Services, 1997.

 Gray, Peter

Vetting the Horse

London: J. A. Allen, 1997.

 Green, Reg

National Heroes: The Aintree Legend

Edinburgh: Mainstream, 1997.

 Haas, Jessie

Keeping Barney

New York: Beech Tree, 1998.

Hanauer, Elise V.

Horse Owner's Concise Guide

No. Hollywood, Calif.: Wilshire, 1969.

Hardman, A.C. Leighton

Stallion Management

No. Hollywood, Calif.: Wilshire, 1974.

 Harris, Robert E. Jr.

Power and Virtue: The Horse in Chinese Art

New York: China Institute Gallery, 1997.

 Hayes, Karen E.N.

Horse & Rider's Hands-On Horse Care

Harrisburg, Pa.: Horse & Rider, 1997.

 Henderson, Carolyn

Feeding Horses

London: J. A. Allen, 1997.

Hurley, Cynthia G.

Teach Yourself to Ride a Horse

Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1978.

 Janus, Sharon

The Magic of Horses

Hygiene, Colo.: SunShine Press, 1997.

L'Annee Hippique 1997/1998

Best, Holland: BCM, 1997.

Loving, Nancy

Veterinary Manual for the Performance Horse

Grand Prairie, Texas: Equine Research, 1993.

 Loving, Nancy S.

Conformation and Performance

Ossining, N.Y.: Breakthrough, 1997.

 Mathews, Craig

Western Fly-Fishing Strategies

New York: The Lyons Press, 1998.

 Mayer, Marianna

Pegasus

New York: Morrow, 1998

Michener, James A.

Creatures of the Kingdom

New York: Ballantine, 1993.

 Mort, Terry

The Reasonable Art of Fly Fishing

New York: The Lyons Press, 1998.

Newsom, Gillian

Olympic 3-Day Event: LA '84

London: Threshold, 1984.

Paget, G.

Sporting Pictures of England

London: Bracken, 1987.

Palmer, Joseph

The Dartmoor Pony

Exeter, Devon, England: Devon Books, 1990.

Roe, Frank Gilbert

The Indian and the Horse

Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1974.

 Sellnow, Les

Understanding Equine Lameness

Lexington, Ky.: The Blood-Horse, 1998.

Shaw, Vero

Encyclopedia of the Stable

London: George Routledge & Sons, n.d.

 Sherwood, Patricia Miller

An Honest Angler: The Best of Sparse Grey Hackle

New York: Lyons Press, 1998.

 Steinke, Robert H.

The Care & Repair of Harness

London: J. A. Allen, 1997.

 Strickland, Charlene

Competing in Western Shows & Events

Pownal, Vt.: Storey, 1998.

 Strickland, Charlene

The Basics of Western Riding

Pownal, Vt.: Storey, 1998.

Van Tuyl, Barbara

Select, Buy, Train, Care for Your Own Horse

New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1969.

Van Tuyl, Barbara

How to Ride and Jump Your Best

New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1973.

Woodhouse, Barbara

Barbara's World of Horses and Ponies

New York: Summit, 1984.

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NSL News

NSL Receives Grant for Lecture from Loudoun Library Foundation

The National Sporting Library has received a grant from the Loudoun Library Foundation in Leesburg, Va. The grant will be used to support a sporting art lecture that the NSL will offer this fall in conjunction with The Friends of British Sporting Art and Foxcroft School. The 1996 lecture, which featured a talk by Dr. Robert Fountain on the artist George Stubbs, drew a full house to Foxcroft's auditorium for an enjoyable, educational evening.

This year's lecture is tentatively set for Oct. 30 and will feature a presentation by Lorella Brocklesby, an adjunct professor at New York University, on "Historic English Country House Stables." Look for more details in the summer 1998 newsletter.

The Loudoun Library Foundation supports libraries in Loudoun County, Va., that are open to the general public. This is the NSL's first grant from the foundation.

Winants Visits Yale Center

NSL Director Peter Winants attended a tour of the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, Conn., in March. The American organization Friends of British Sporting Art arranged the visit. Patrick McCaughey, director of the Center, was the host.

George Stubbs's "Zebra" and "Horse Attacked by Lion" were highlights to the 40-odd visitors, along with John Ferneley Sr.'s "Thomas Wilkinson, MFH and the Hurworth Foxhounds," Sir Alfred Munnings's "Point to Point Meeting" and Edward Lear's "Kangchenjunga from Darjeeling."

The Center, which will be closed to the public until January 1999 for renovations, houses the most comprehensive collection of English paintings, prints, drawings, rare books and sculpture outside Great Britain. A number of the Center's classics will be sent in the near future to Australia for an exhibit.

Misty Materials Find New Home at the University of Virginia

In December the Misty of Chincoteague Foundation purchased the original black-and-white drawings from Marguerite Henry's *Misty of Chincoteague* from the family of Wesley Dennis, illustrator of the book.

The collection, which includes illustrations, correspondence and other related materials related to *Misty* and two other Henry/Dennis titles, has been deeded to the special collections department of the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va. The university will house and preserve the collection.

The Misty of Chincoteague Foundation has assembled an exhibit of reproductions of the original drawings that is now on tour in schools throughout the country.

Membership Renewal Update

Thanks to the many members of the "Friends of the National Sporting Library" who have already returned their membership renewals for 1998. If you have not yet renewed, we hope you will do so during this exciting time in our history. As construction

of our new library building continues, so do our ideas for the many new services and programs we will soon be able to offer in it. In the meantime, we are looking forward to our lecture and duplicate book sale this fall. We hope you will agree that now is the time to be a member of the "Friends."

If you are not yet a member and would like to join, see the membership application on page 15. Join us!

Edwards Paintings Donated to Museum of Hounds and Hunting

The Museum of Hounds and Hunting in Leesburg, Va., has received a major collection of original art by sporting painter Lionel Edwards. The collection was donated by Norma Bowles of Los Angeles, Calif.

John Bowles, president of the Rexall Drug Company and an avid foxhunter, met Lionel Edwards when the artist was well into his eighties. Over the next few years, Edwards completed paintings that depicted Bowles and his wife, Norma, as they enjoyed hunting with British hunts such as the Belvoir, Cottesmore and Quorn. Mrs. Bowles's gift includes five oil paintings, along with the sketches, working drawings and correspondence between artist and subject surrounding them. Mrs. Bowles also donated her husband's library of sporting books to the museum.

Western Heritage Award Winners Named

The National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, Okla., has named the literary winners of the 37th Western Heritage Awards.

The winners and their categories were: *Thomas Moran*, by Nancy K. Anderson, art book; *The Hunter's Game—Poachers and Conservationists in Twentieth-Century America* by Louis S. Warren, nonfiction book; *The Mercy Seat* by Rilla Askew, novel; *The Medicine Keepers* by J.B. Allen, poetry book; *Sue Ellen Learns to Dance* by Judy Alter, short story; *Daughter of Suqua* by Diane Johnston Hamm, juvenile book. "When the Buffalo Roamed," a

Welcome New Friends

as of April 1, 1998

Prudence Anderson/Boyce, Va.

Sharon Anthony/Franklin, Tenn.

Robert J. Brugger/Baltimore, Md.

David H. Butts/Union Bridge, Md.

Margot Case/Staunton, Va.

Edward M. Crane/Hopewell, N.J.

Lavinia Currier and Joel McCleary/ The Plains, Va.

Tania Evans/Ann Arbor, Mich.

Elizabeth Hill/Reston, Va.

Dr. and Mrs. David Johnson/Warrenton, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Daniel Looper/Middleburg, Va.

Douglas C. Morris/Locust Grove, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Terrence Ney/Philomont, Va.

Pamela A. Noyes/Great Falls, Va.

The Museums at Stony Brook/Stony Brook, N.Y.

Peter S. Tsimortos/Wrentham, Mass.

Walter Darnall Vinyard/Alexandria, Va.

Fred Wooden/Manchester, Md.



COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM OF HOUNDS AND HUNTING

"Quorn at North Charnwood Forest" is one of five Lionel Edwards oil paintings that have been donated to the Museum of Hounds and Hunting by Norma Bowles. Bowles and her grey hunter are pictured following her late husband, John, over the stone wall in the lower right corner.

magazine story by Dan Flores that appeared in *Wild West Magazine*, won the magazine article award.

A seven-foot bronze likeness of former president Ronald Reagan was unveiled during the awards ceremony April 4. Reagan is included in the museum's "Hall of Great Westerners" and "Hall of Great Western Performers."

The sculpture was done by artist Glenna Goodacre, who is perhaps best known for her bronze "Vietnam Women's Memorial" at the Vietnam Wall on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

New Bronze at American Saddle Horse Museum

In January The American Saddle Horse Museum in Lexington, Ky., unveiled a bronze statue of CH Santana Lass by sculptress Gwen Reardon.

The bronze was donated by Mary Gaylord McClean of Simpsonville, Ky., who is depicted in the saddle aboard CH Santana Lass. A life-size version of the bronze graces the entrance to Shelbyville, Ky., near the county fairgrounds.

Recycle with the NSL

Are you a supporter of recycling? If so, think of the NSL when you cast an eye over your bookshelves. If you have any horse books that are not receiving the attention they deserve, please consider donating them to the NSL, where we will either add them to the collection or place them in our 1998 Duplicate Book Sale.

We are beginning to assemble books for 1998 sale, and as always, your donations are the key to its success. If you have any horse books that you are ready to pass on, let us find them a good home!

Each year our book sale keeps hundreds of horse books in circulation by placing them in book-loving homes. Nearly all of the items in the 1997 sale went to new homes, and the NSL raised needed funds with the proceeds. Please think of us—and not the nearest dumpster—when you are weeding out your bookshelves. Each donation, no matter how

small, is of great value to the NSL. In addition, since the NSL is a 501(c)(3) organization, your donation may be tax-deductible.

We will be collecting books through the summer, and the book sale catalog will be mailed to NSL members in the fall. For more information on donations or the sale, contact NSL Librarian Laura Rose at (540) 687-6542.

O'Connor Papers to the National Museum of Racing

Monmouth Park has donated an important portion of the John L. O'Connor Collection to the National Museum of Racing in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Letters, transcripts from early American newspapers, and racing ephemera are included in the donation.

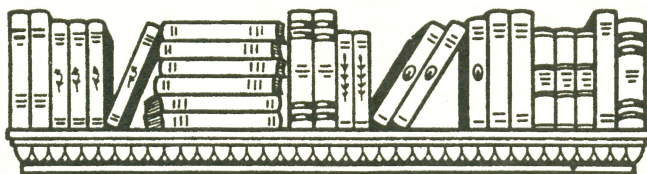
O'Connor (1875-1957), known as "The Sage of Schuylerville," was a renowned authority on early American Thoroughbreds and their pedigrees. Included in the donation is a copy of O'Connor's *Notes on the Thoroughbred from Kentucky Newspapers*. Only a few copies are known to exist; the Keeneland Association Library and the National Sporting Library also hold copies.

Letters from William T. Porter, editor of the *Spirit of the Times*, to Henry T. Randall are another highlight of the donation. An 1856 letter from Porter details his intention to publish *Porter's Spirit of the Times*, which he accomplished for two years until his death in 1858.

Will James Fans Take Note

If you're a fan of cowboy author/artist Will James, plan to visit the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings, Mont. Virginia Snook has donated a large collection of drawings, paintings, books and memorabilia to the museum, which opened a new facility in February.

An exhibition on James now on display traces the course of his life and career and highlights his relationship with Earl and Eleanor Snook, friends and patrons of James and the mother of Virginia Snook. Snook has also donated drawings and paintings by Western artists such as Charles M. Russell, J.H. Sharp and others. For more information on the museum, call (406) 256-6804.



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—HENRY DAVID THOREAU

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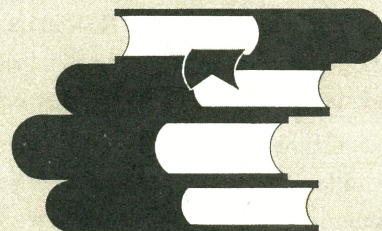
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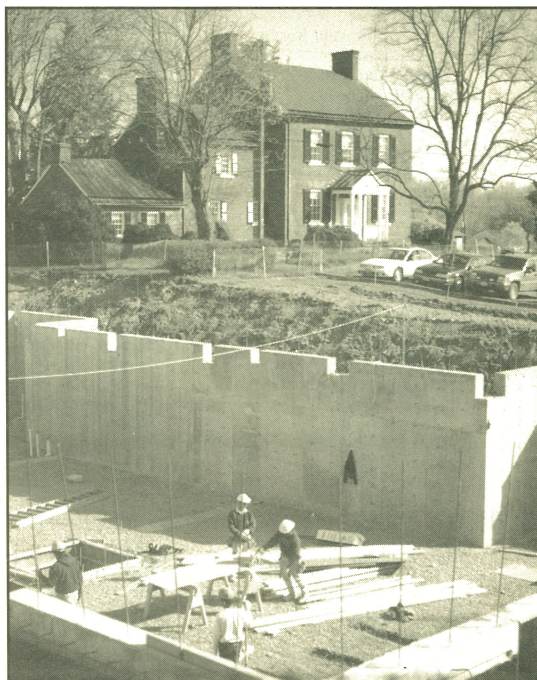
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From Footprint to Four Walls

A wet winter hasn't slowed the construction of the National Sporting Library's new library building. Though a few work days have been lost due to heavy rains, at this time construction of the 15,000-square-foot building is on (do we dare tell you a bit *ahead of?*) schedule.



PETER WINANTS PHOTO

First we had blasting, then a lot of serious earth moving, then a *very big* (and sometimes very muddy) hole. Now the cement walls of the lower floor of the library building are beginning to take shape in said hole and show us just what kind of space the library will have to grow into.

If you have visited the NSL in its present, cramped quarters, you know how thrilled we are with each step that brings us closer to our spacious new facility, which is presently scheduled to be completed in May 1999.

Until then, we will remain open and welcome visitors in our current location. Plan a visit, and let us show you a model of the building we plan to be moving into this time next year.

Well Done, Essex!

The members and landowners of the Essex (N.J.) Fox Hounds have made a generous donation to the Alexander Mackay-Smith Room in the new Library. Mrs. Lewis C. Murdock and Oliver D. Filley, who are members of the Library, coordinated the effort.

"It simply is something we want to support," said Mr. Filley. "We feel that Mr. Mackay-Smith has given a lot for foxhunting and other sports through the years, and that the Library is an extremely important information center for the activities we enjoy. Bunny [Mrs. Murdock] and I are pleased that the members, and especially the landowners, agree that Essex should support the room."

A total of 60 Essex members and landowners donated nearly \$3,500. Well done, Essex. The directors of the National Sporting Library, including Mr. Mackay-Smith, sincerely appreciate your support. One promise, though. We expect Essex to be represented at the opening of the new library building in May 1999.



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